



# The Buckeye Airlifter



The 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, Mansfield, OH

Dec. 2002

## Unit recognizes best of the best



*Barley*

*Kling*

*Starcher*

*Schuller*

**By: 1Lt. Shannon Scherer  
179th Public Affairs Office**

This year's annual unit awards banquet was a night to celebrate the accomplishments of many individuals across the base and start a few new traditions.

On Nov. 2, 2002 at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, nearly 200 unit and family members, retirees and community leaders gathered to see who would take home top honors as the unit's most outstanding airman, non-commissioned officer, senior non-commissioned officer, first sergeant and second lieutenant.

The 179<sup>th</sup> Services Flight was especially recognized when three of the five awards were presented to members of this section.

Senior Airman Christopher Barley was named Airman of the Year, Tech Sgt. Bryan Kling was named NCO of the Year and Senior Master Sgt. David Starcher was named Senior NCO of the Year.

"I think this team and the individuals who make it up have proven that they can do their best at the worst of times," said 1Lt. Ken Kmetz, services flight commander. "The wing is full of

outstanding performers who make up superior teams; this flight is truly humbled by being awarded three of the five categories at the awards ceremony."

Barley serves as a food services specialist and he has been a member of the National Guard since 1998. In 2002, he deployed to Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and helped maintain and track more than \$2.5 million in food services assets. He is a student at Bowling Green State University studying secondary integrated language arts education.

Kling is the dining hall and security manager for the flight. He joined the active duty Air Force in 1989 and became a member of the 179<sup>th</sup> AW in 1997. Kling deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this year and helped implement the first fresh food program in the former Soviet Union. He is a member of the Crossroads Community Church and is active with their youth program.

Starcher is the services superintendent and he has been a member

of the National Guard since 1980. He deployed to Korea, Saudi Arabia and most recently to Oman in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is past president of the Ohio Association Public Employee Union and a member of Winona Friend Church.

"Senior Airman Barley, Tech. Sgt. Kling and Senior Master Sgt. Starcher were selected based on their integrity, performance and call to duty," said Kmetz. "The awards packages wrote themselves and merely reflected what they did throughout the year and how they carry themselves as professionals in and out of uniform."

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*Col. Rich Green presents Lt. Craig Devore with the 2nd Lt. of the Year Award.*